GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:955
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
DRUG SMUGGLERS
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi and other parts of the country are fast becoming safe heavens of the international drug smugglers as reported in Dainik Jagran dated the October 26, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to check such activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which steps are likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) The proximity to the International border and good air-linkage with other countries make Delhi and other major metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Chennai vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity.

(b) to (e) : Government of India has already taken number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.